Claims:

We claim:

1. An electronic knowledge commerce system comprising a knowledge exchange system, a knowledge recipient, a knowledge expert, a communication medium, wherein said knowledge exchange system comprises one or more data stores containing knowledge components and their characteristics, a commerce engine, a knowledge delivery system, and a security system.

2. The system according to claim 1 where said knowledge exchange is delivered over the world wide web.

3. The system according to claim 2 wherein said knowledge exchange is delivered live.

4. The system according to claim 2 wherein said knowledge exchange delivers archived knowledge generated from a live knowledge exchange.

5. The system according to claim 3 wherein the system includes one or more of page flip, interactive question and answer, telephone based audio, streaming based audio, streaming based video, discussion groups, chat, white board, remote program demonstration, polling service, group membership based applications, annotation service, follow-me browsing, voice over IP services and examination services.

6. The system according to claim 4 wherein the system includes one or more of page flip, interactive question and answer, telephone based audio, streaming based audio, streaming based video, discussion groups, chat, white board, remote program demonstration, polling service, group membership based applications, annotation service, follow-me browsing, voice over IP services and examination services.

7. The system according to claim 3 further comprising collaboration services wherein said collaboration services are provided without requiring plug-ins, installed programs, controls such as Java Applets, ActiveX controls at a user's browser, and wherein the collaboration services operate through a security filtering system.

8. The system according to claim 4 further comprising collaboration services wherein said collaboration services are provided without requiring plug-ins, installed programs, controls such as Java Applets, ActiveX controls at a user's browser, and wherein the collaboration services operate through a security filtering system.

9. The system according to claim 2 wherein an institution contributes knowledge components in an automated business-to-business process.

10. The system according to claim 2 wherein an institution is provided with delegated administration capabilities by said knowledge commerce system.

11. The system according to claim 2 wherein said knowledge exchange system includes an invitation management system.

12. The system according to claim 3 wherein a knowledge expert that authenticates to the knowledge exchange system, contributes one or more knowledge components to the knowledge commerce system and establishes characteristics for the knowledge components.

13. The system according to claim 2 wherein the commerce engine may provide pay-per-unit commerce capabilities, wherein a billing unit includes a streaming session unit, a telephone session unit, a duration of access unit, or a collaboration service or combinations thereof.

14. The system according to claim 13 wherein said collaboration service comprises one or more of page flip, chat, discussion group, annotation service, interactive question and answer, white board, remote program demonstration, polling service, group membership based applications, follow me browsing, voice-over-IP services, and examination services.

15. The system in claim 13 wherein a knowledge commerce system provider may act as the merchant of record for a purchase of a knowledge component.

16. The system in claim 13 wherein said institution may act as the merchant of record for a purchase of a knowledge component.

17. An application of the system according to claim 2 for providing e-learning.

18. An application of the system according to claim 2 for providing remote seminars.

19. An application of the system according to claim 2 for providing remote consulting.

20. An application of the system according to claim 2 for providing product marketing and sales.

21. An application of the system according to claim 2 for providing collaborative web casting.

22. An application of the system according to claim 2 for providing kiosk based presentations.

23. The system according to claim 22 wherein a user at a first web site may access a knowledge component in a publicly readable area of said knowledge exchange system to access said knowledge component such that user registration and or authentication is not required by said knowledge exchange system in order for said user to receive said knowledge component.

24. A knowledge commerce system comprising a knowledge exchange system, a knowledge recipient, a knowledge expert, and a communication medium, wherein said knowledge exchange system comprises one or more data stores containing knowledge components and their characteristics, a commerce engine, a knowledge delivery system, and a security system and wherein a knowledge expert may contribute knowledge components to said knowledge exchange system and wherein knowledge expert may deliver said knowledge components live over the world wide web to one or more knowledge recipients.

25. The system according to claim 24 further comprising collaboration services which comprise one or more of page flip, chat, discussion group, annotation

service, interactive question and answer, white board, remote program demonstration, polling service, group membership based applications, follow me browsing, voice-over-IP services, and examination services, within the knowledge delivery system are provided to a user's browser without requiring said user to install additional software, plug-ins or automatically down loadable compiled control components, and wherein said collaboration services operate through security filtering systems.

26. The system according to claim 25 wherein said collaboration services operate through security filtering systems using http type protocols comprising http, httpdav through port 80 or the https protocol through port 443.

27. A knowledge commerce system comprising of one or more knowledge experts, one or more knowledge recipients, a knowledge exchange service provider, and a communication medium wherein said knowledge expert may interact with said knowledge exchange service provider in a self-service manner wherein said knowledge expert may contribute knowledge component to said knowledge exchange service provider and use collaboration services provided by said knowledge exchange service provider to deliver said knowledge component live over the world wide web to said knowledge recipients, and where said knowledge recipients pay said knowledge exchange service provider an enrollment fee to receive said knowledge component and wherein said knowledge exchange service

provider provides all or some part of said knowledge recipient's said paid fee to said knowledge expert.

28. The system according to claim 24 where said knowledge exchange is delivered through security filtering systems.

29. The system according to claim 1 where said knowledge exchange is delivered over a private network.